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Public Affairs

# Selected Speeches and News Releases

January 31 - February 6, 1991

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# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## NATIONAL AG LIBRARY TO HOST FIRST INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

WASHINGTON Jan. 31—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library will host the "New Technology Workshop," at the NAL facility in Beltsville, Md., Sept. 16-20.

The event, sponsored by the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD), is the first in a series of workshops on computer technology to be held worldwide in the next several years.

The workshop will feature in-depth lectures and demonstrations on new information management technologies. Workshop organizers said there will be opportunities for hands-on use of the technologies with guidance by internationally recognized experts. The registration fee for the workshop, including four lunches, is \$490.

"Taking full advantage of recent developments in computer technology is vitally important to information specialists everywhere," said NAL Director Joseph Howard, who was recently elected to a five-year term as IAALD President. "If it is used wisely, the technology will allow the rapid spread of knowledge in the agricultural sciences."

Among topics scheduled to be covered in the workshop are telecommunications and networking; multimedia CD-ROM development; scanning and optical character recognition; hypertext and expert system applications; digital image transmission; informatics (simulations and forecasting); and machine-readable storage and access for photographs.

Future workshops will focus on library collection development and document delivery, in addition to new technology.

For further information on the IAALD New Technology Workshop contact: Gary K. McCone, Information Systems Division, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md. 20705; telephone: (301) 344-3813.

IAALD is a 700-member body of agricultural information specialists representing over 80 countries. It was established in 1955 to promote public education and information transfer in agricultural development and production.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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USDA AWARDS GRANTS TO LAUNCH SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$5 million in federal grants to school districts in 25 states to help start school breakfast programs.

USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, which administers the program, awarded the grants on the basis of need, number of children who could be added to the program, and feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the school districts’ proposals. The designated states will distribute the grants to the local school districts that have been approved for an award.

“These grants are part of a five-year program to provide start-up funds for new school breakfast programs through 1994,” said Betty Jo Nelsen, FNS administrator. “They will contribute to better nutrition and stimulate the learning process for children at schools that begin breakfast programs.”

Nelsen said school districts will spend most of the grant money on capital expenditures, but some will go for training food service workers and publicizing the new programs.

The amounts awarded to the 25 states are:

Arizona	\$ 40,900.00	New Jersey	1,010,672.00
Arkansas	75,650.00	New York	495,045.00
California	638,693.88	North Carolina	197,111.00
Georgia	355,561.00	North Dakota	22,982.00
Indiana	129,011.70	Oregon	14,517.45
Kansas	179,478.00	Pennsylvania	804,675.75
Kentucky	142,847.46	South Carolina	34,352.00
Maine	61,306.69	South Dakota	44,393.40
Michigan	106,858.00	Vermont	50,041.64
Minnesota	100,604.00	Virginia	127,887.00
Mississippi	180,250.00	Wisconsin	31,958.00
Missouri	89,524.75	Wyoming	56,515.00
Neveda	9,164.33		

Phil Shanholtzer (703) 756-3286

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## USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH GUIDELINES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comments on its proposed guidelines for research involving the planned introduction into the environment of genetically modified organisms.

The proposed guidelines, published today in the Federal Register, provide a step-by-step process for assessing the safety of field research with specific genetically modified organisms. They also offer recommendations for the design of appropriate confinement measures to control the survival and spread of such organisms during field research.

Dr. Charles E. Hess, assistant secretary of agriculture for science and education, said the guidelines are a major step forward for biotechnology research. “They provide scientific guidance to the research community while helping to assure the public that this technology is used in a safe, responsible manner,” he said.

Hess also said continued research in agricultural biotechnology in the United States is important to the development of cheaper, safer, more nutritious, and more environmentally sensitive food and fiber products for U.S. consumers.

Dr. Alvin Young, director of USDA’s Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, said the guidelines, although not mandatory, complement USDA’s existing body of regulations and strengthen USDA’s efforts to ensure that state-of-the-art agricultural research moves forward in a safe and timely manner. “The guidelines will also help researchers as they work with the biosafety committees of their affiliated institutions to design safe field trials,” Young said.

The guidelines, entitled “Proposed USDA Guidelines for Research Involving the Planned Introduction into the Environment of Organisms with Deliberately Modified Hereditary Traits,” were written by the OAB with primary scientific input from USDA’s Agricultural Biotechnology Research Advisory Committee.

The scientific community and public at large may comment on the proposed guidelines during a 60-day comment period which closes on April 2. Written comments should be sent to Dr. Daniel Jones, Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, Room 324-A, U.S. Department of



Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-2200. Copies of the guidelines may be obtained from OAB at the same address, or by calling (202) 447-9165.

Marti Asner (703) 235-4413

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## **CCC INTEREST RATE FOR FEBRUARY LOWERED TO 6-3/4 PERCENT**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Commodity loans disbursed in February by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 6-3/4 percent interest rate, said Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 6-3/4 percent interest rate is down from January's 7-1/8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in February.

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1990-CROP UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—A U.S. Department of Agriculture official today said eligible upland cotton producers will receive approximately \$185 million in final deficiency payments for the 1990 crop of upland cotton.

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation said the final payments will be made in cash through USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices.

Deficiency payments are required under the upland cotton program when the national average market price received by producers during the calendar year, which includes the first five months of the marketing year, is below the established target price.

The payment rate is based on the difference between the target price and the higher of the calendar year price or the loan rate. Because the 1990 calendar year national average market price was above the loan



rate, the deficiency payment rate for the 1990 crop is the difference between the target price and the calendar year price.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 requires that the deficiency payment rate for the 1990 crop be reduced by 0.515 cents per pound.

An advance payment of 3.685-cents per pound was made earlier to eligible producers requesting an advance. The advance payment rate reflected the 0.515 cent reduction. The final payment for producers receiving an advance payment will be reduced by the 3.685 cent advance payment.

The final payment rate for producers not receiving an advance payment will be 6.785 cents per pound. The final payment rate for producers receiving an advance payment will be 3.1 cents per pound.

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings) requires that all 1990 crop deficiency payments be reduced by 1.4 percent. Therefore, all 1990 crop final deficiency payments will be reduced by 1.4 percent.

The final deficiency payment rate was computed as follows:

	Cents/lb.
A. Target Price	72.90
B. Loan Rate	50.27
C. 1990 Calendar Year Average Market Price	65.60
D. Deficiency Payment Rate (A minus C)	7.30
E. Budget Reconciliation Reduction	0.515
F. Adjusted Deficiency Payment Rate (D minus E)	6.785
G. Adjusted Advance Deficiency Payment Rate	3.685
H. Net Deficiency Payment Rate (F minus G)	3.100

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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**\$25,000 TO BE AWARDED IN FOREST SERVICE STAMP  
DESIGN COMPETITION**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson today announced that a \$25,000 prize will be awarded to the winning designer of the first in a series of collectors' stamps featuring National Forest System wildlife and habitat.

The stamps will be issued and sold worldwide by Asset Marketing Services of Bloomington, Minn., under an agreement with the Forest Service. The series is part of this year's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Forest System.

A portion of the sale proceeds will be donated to the Forest Service to help preserve wildlife habitats, maintain recreation facilities, assist in reforestation, and other conservation activities on system lands. Robertson authorized the private stamp issue to increase public awareness of the value of national forests and grasslands.

The \$25,000 award, donated by Asset Marketing Services, specifically will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve in Wyoming, the first forest land protected for public use under the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. Those lands are now encompassed by the Shoshone, Targhee, and Bridger-Teton National Forests.

The contest winner will also receive a trip to Cody, Wyo., for a Forest Service centennial celebration in June. The top 50 designs will be displayed in a traveling national exhibit and all entrants will receive a sheet of the National Forest System stamp with a face value of \$100.

Entries must consist of a design depicting wildlife and its habitat on lands within the National Forest System. The system includes 191 million acres in 156 national forests and 19 national grasslands located in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

Designs will be judged for composition, theme, technical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction on a stamp. Final selection will be by a nine-member panel of judges, including Forest Service officials.

The competition, open to all artists residing in the United States, will conclude May 1. An entry fee of \$35 is required. The winning artist will retain ownership of the original art.

Additional information and entry forms may be obtained by writing "National Forest System Stamp Program," Asset Marketing, Inc., 3001 Metro Dr., Bloomington, MN 55425, or by calling (800) 777-6468.

Robert Hendricks (202) 447-2418

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PEANUT GROWERS APPROVE POUNDAGE QUOTAS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—Peanut producers have approved poundage quotas for the 1991 through 1995 crops as a result of a mail referendum held Dec. 10-13, 1990, according to Keith Bjerke, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Of the 12,302 votes cast, 12,084 or 98.2 percent, favored peanut poundage quotas for the next five crop years, Bjerke said. Two-thirds of the farmers voting must favor continuing peanut poundage quotas for the quotas to remain in effect.

Peanut Quota Referendum Results

State	Yes Votes	No Votes	Total	% Voting Yes
Alabama	1,369	19	1,388	98
Arizona	5	0	5	100
Arkansas	34	0	34	100
California	2	0	2	100
	611	17	628	97
Georgia	3,941	50	3,991	98
Louisiana	11	0	11	100
Mississippi	86	3	89	96
Missouri	5	0	5	100
New Mexico	71	2	73	97
North Carolina	1,959	37	1,996	99
Oklahoma	785	14	799	98
South Carolina	104	0	104	100
Tennessee	3	0	3	100
Texas	2,270	60	2,330	97
Virginia	828	16	844	98
TOTALS	12,084	218	12,302	98.2

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789



## USDA ANNOUNCES FINAL DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1990-CROP RICE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1—A U.S. Department of Agriculture official today said eligible rice producers will receive approximately \$580 million in final deficiency payments for the 1990-crop of rice.

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation said the final payments will be made in cash through USDA'S Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices.

Deficiency payments are required under the rice program when the national average market price received by producers during the first five months (August through December) of the marketing year is below the established target price.

The payment rate is based on the difference between the target price and the higher of the market price or the loan rate. Because the five-month average market price was below the loan rate, the deficiency payment rate for the 1990 crop is the difference between the target price and the loan rate, or \$4.21 per hundredweight.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 requires that the deficiency payment rate for the 1990 crop be reduced by 5.15 cents per hundredweight.

An advance payment of \$1.5725 per hundredweight was made earlier to eligible producers who requested advances, resulting in approximately \$220 million in advance payments. The advance payment rate reflected the 5.15 cent reduction. The final payment for producers receiving an advance payment will be \$2.586 per hundredweight.

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Gramm- Rudman-Hollings) requires that all 1990-crop deficiency payments be reduced by 1.4 percent.

The final deficiency payment rates were computed as follows:



	\$/Cwt.
A. Target Price	10.71
B. Loan Rate	6.50
C. 1990 5-Month Average Market Price	6.25
D. Deficiency Payment Rate (A minus B)	4.2100
E. Budget Reconciliation Reduction	0.0515
F. Adjusted Deficiency Payment Rate	4.1585
G. Adjusted Advance Deficiency Payment Rate	1.5725
H. Net Deficiency Payment Rate (F minus G)	2.5860

Robert Feist (202) 447-6789

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## YEUTTER ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF 15 NEW RC&D AREAS

ATLANTA, Feb. 4—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced the establishment of 15 new Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Areas encompassing 110 counties in 14 states.

The action qualifies these areas to receive technical and financial assistance for economic development, public facilities improvement, and resource conservation under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's RC&D program.

Yeutter also announced the expansion of seven existing RC&D areas.

"We're pleased to provide assistance for rural development and resource conservation," Yeutter said. "The Department of Agriculture will be working with local leaders in these areas to help them expand economic opportunities and improve community resources through the RC&D program."

The program is managed by USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

Under the program, USDA provides each RC&D area with a project coordinator. The coordinator assists the area's RC&D council in setting goals, identifying local agencies that can support those goals, developing funding sources, and coordinating communication and activities to ensure council goals are achieved.

Councils are formed by representatives of each of the sponsoring organizations involved in RC&D activities. Members include representatives of county and town governments, soil conservation

districts, water districts, community development organizations, private conservation organizations and other nonprofit groups.

Typical RC&D projects include improving or establishing community hospitals, schools, and water and sewage treatment plants; marketing programs for local products; implementing local erosion control and flood protection; and establishing or improving local recreation facilities.

The fifteen new areas announced today brings the total number of RC&D areas in the United States to 209.

The new and expanded RC&D areas are detailed below.

State	Name of New RC&D Area	Counties Included
Alabama	Northwest Alabama	Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Marion, Winston
Arkansas	Central Arkansas	Faulkner, Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline
Idaho	West Central Highlands	Adams, Boise, Gem, Valley, Washington
Illinois	Southwestern Illinois	Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington
Kansas	Glacial Hills	Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Nemaha

Kentucky	Mammoth Cave	Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Simpson, Warren
Michigan	Potawatomi	Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph
Minnesota	Prairie Country	Big Stone, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Swift, Yellow Medicine
Montana	Central Montana	Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Wheatland
New Mexico	Jornada	Dona Ana, Sierra, Socorro
Ohio	Erie Basin	Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Wyandot
Texas	Alamo	Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Medina

Texas	Big Country	Borden, Fisher, Garza, Glasscock, Howard, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolam, Scurry, Sterling, Taylor
Virginia	Old Dominion	Amelia, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, Prince Edward
Wyoming	Northeastern Wyoming	Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, Weston

The seven RC&D areas that are being expanded are Southwest Arkansas RC&D area in Arkansas; Central Coast RC&D area in California; Onanegozie RC&D area in Minnesota; Maumee Valley RC&D area in Ohio; Four Winds RC&D area in Texas; Bear River RC&D area in Utah and Idaho; and River Country RC&D area in Wisconsin.

Diana Morse (202) 447-4772

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## USDA ANNOUNCES ARP/CRP SIGNUPS AND CRP PROGRAM PROVISIONS FOR 1991

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter announced today the 1991 Acreage Reduction Program signup will be March 4 through April 26, and the 10th Conservation Reserve Program signup will be March 4 through March 15.

“Under new CRP program provisions, bids on eligible land will be accepted based on environmental benefits obtained per dollar of cost to USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation,” Yeutter said.

Yeutter cautioned producers that they should not rely on bid amounts which have been accepted in previous years when making their bids. “In past signups, there was a high expectation that a producer could rely on no change occurring with respect to the bid amounts which would be accepted,” he said. “Producers who wish to enroll in the CRP should be aware there is increased competition.”

Land eligibility requirements will be expanded from past signups to include not only highly erodible land, but also other cropland acres that reduce the impairment of water quality or improve wellhead protection. “Wellheads are sources of water for municipalities,” Yeutter said. “We expect to accept bids for protection of these wellheads as well as areas designated by states as ‘319 areas’, which have been determined to be a source of water quality problems.”

To increase water quality benefits under CRP, producers offering areas such as filterstrips, sod waterways, shelterbelts and contour grass strips will receive additional consideration during the bid evaluation process.

Yeutter said bids for enrolling wetlands will not be accepted during this signup. “The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 establishes a Wetland Reserve Program and we will announce details of this program in the near future,” he said.

CRP bids will be accepted only for contracts beginning in 1991 and bid acceptance determinations will be made after a nationwide review and evaluation. Selection will be based on the environmental benefits received from placing the land in the CRP when compared to dollars of cost.

Yeutter said producers will be permitted to enter the same acreage simultaneously into the annual commodity programs and the CRP, and to withdraw from the commodity programs, without penalty, if their CRP bid is accepted.

USDA needs 30 days to evaluate and accept a bid but acceptance is not binding on either the producer or USDA until the contract is signed, he said.

Fifty percent cost-share assistance will continue to be available to establish needed permanent vegetative cover, including trees, on the accepted acres. Annual rental payments for 10 years also will be paid to CRP participants, based upon their bid, except in some limited cases, such as hardwood tree planting, where a longer period may apply.

Further details will be made available to producers in the near future through their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices.

ARP program provisions were announced Dec. 31, 1990.

Kelly Shipp (202) 447-4623

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## **SAFE WATER PROGRESS TO BE REPORTED**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—National progress toward keeping pesticides and fertilizers out of water supplies will be reported at a public workshop in Arlington, Va., Feb. 6-7.

Officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Geological Survey, and the Environmental Protection Agency—the agencies sponsoring the workshop—will discuss accomplishments to date, one year after starting work under the President's Water Quality Initiative.

This initiative, which began in 1989, is designed to help farmers comply with state pollution management programs authorized by the Clean Water Act of 1987. It calls for federal agencies to work together to lessen the risk of pesticides and fertilizers reaching ground and surface water.

Scientists, economists, extension personnel and water-soil managers will speak at the workshop. It will begin at 9:30 a.m., Feb. 6, at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Arlington, Va.

At a morning session that day, a panel of representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Agricultural Chemicals Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation will discuss public perspectives.



Other speakers at the two-day workshop will include Congressional and Office of Management and Budget as well as state officials.

Workshop subjects will deal with the various parts of the President's Initiative: research, education and technical assistance to farmers, database development and project evaluations. USDA chaired the joint agency committee that arranged the workshop.

Harry C. Mussman, USDA deputy assistant secretary for science and education, said initiative activities span almost every state in the union. He said the initiative has increased the department's water quality budget from \$109.6 million in 1989 to this year's budget of \$201.6 million.

Don Comis (301) 344-2773

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## **YEUTTER NAMES EIGHT MEMBERS TO NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter today announced six reappointments and two appointments to the 29 member National Watermelon Promotion Board.

Producers reappointed by Yeutter to serve three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1993, are: District 1 (South Florida, below state highway #50)—Thomas A. Smith, LaBelle, Fla.; Douglas L. Johnson, Immokalee, Fla.; District 6 (Texas)—Paul H. Kirby, Hempstead, Texas.

Producer Cruz Gurrola of Hempstead, Texas, has been appointed to serve a three-year term also ending Dec. 31, 1993.

Handlers reappointed to serve three-year terms ending Dec. 31, 1993, are: District 1—William R. Ward Jr., Lakeland, Fla.; District 6—Ralph K. Scott, Edinburg, Texas; Todd E. Anderson, Dilley, Texas.

Handler Willis J. Peacock III, Arcadia, Fla., has been appointed to serve a three-year term also ending Dec. 31, 1993.

Authorized under the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act of 1985, the board is currently comprised of 14 producer members and 14 handler members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture from nominations forwarded to him from seven watermelon producing districts.

The board administers a national research and promotion program to increase the consumption of U.S. watermelons domestically and internationally. Assessments on watermelon producers and handlers' sales

fund the board and its programs. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operations of the board.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA PROPOSES TO INCREASE FEES TO MEAT AND POULTRY PLANTS**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service is proposing to increase fees charged to federally inspected meat and poultry plants for certain inspection services, including laboratory work and overtime.

Overtime and holiday rates for federal inspection at meat and poultry plants, currently \$27.24 per hour, would be raised to \$28.32 per hour. Rates for voluntary inspection and certification services would be increased to \$27.72 per hour, from \$26.68 per hour. Fees for laboratory work would be increased to \$47.96 per hour, from \$46.60 per hour.

“Our yearly cost analysis has indicated a need to increase some inspection fees to more accurately reflect agency expenses,” said FSIS Administrator Dr. Lester M. Crawford.

Federal law provides for the inspection of meat and poultry products involved in interstate and international commerce during regular working hours. However, USDA is authorized to charge plants for inspection services beyond regular work schedules, for laboratory work, and for voluntary inspection and certification services.

The proposal appeared in the Jan. 31 Federal Register. Comments on the proposed fee increases may be sent by Feb. 15 to the Policy Office, Attn: Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171 South, FSIS-USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome, and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-9314

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## MICROBIOLOGIST TAKES UNUSUAL APPROACH TO PARASITE DAMAGE CONTROL

WASHINGTON—In a bizarre switch from the norm, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist is trying to develop a vaccine that will protect gastrointestinal parasites from the natural infection-fighting system of the livestock they invade.

The parasites themselves cause very little damage inside the animal as they mature or develop, says microbiologist Phillip H. Klesius.

However, the animal's own immune system wreaks havoc by sending infection-fighting white blood cells to the site of parasite infection. These white blood cells, called eosinophils, are armed with tiny bags of toxins to fight the parasites, but those same toxins also can destroy the animal's gastric glands where the parasites are settled.

"The gastric glands are vital to digestion," Klesius noted. "This damage to them leaves farmers with an animal that won't gain much weight, regardless of how much it eats."

Klesius works at the Agricultural Research Service's Animal Parasite Research Laboratory at Auburn, Ala. He hopes to find a vaccine that can forestall the white blood cells' migration by blocking a chemical attractant released by the parasites.

Gastrointestinal parasites such as "*Ostertagia ostertagi*" typically get into a grazing animal's body by being gobbled up along with forage. Once inside, the parasites tuck themselves away in finger-like gastric glands in the abomasum or "true stomach" of ruminant animals such as cattle.

The parasites secrete chemical substances, including the chemical attractant that signals the eosinophils to migrate to the infection site.

"We're studying these chemicals for possible use as the basis of a vaccine to stimulate the animal's immune system to make antibodies against the parasite's secretions," Klesius said. "The antibodies will naturally neutralize these substances as soon as the parasites produce them. This way the eosinophils never get the signal to migrate."

Klesius said there is no evidence that the parasites themselves produce any sort of toxins that would result in the physical damage normally associated with parasite infection in livestock.

"If the cow's body doesn't recognize that the parasites are present, you wouldn't wind up with this gastric gland damage caused by the eosinophils," he said.

A report on Klesius' work appears in the latest issue of "Agricultural Research" magazine, the monthly publication of the Agricultural Research Service.

Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089

Issued: Feb. 5, 1991

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## **USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS TO GRADE STANDARDS FOR DRIED BUTTERMILK**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to revise U.S. grade standards for dried buttermilk to reflect changes in buttermilk marketing since the last revision in 1985.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed changes would extend the standards for buttermilk produced from sweet cream to include both cream separated from whey (the liquid separating in cheesemaking), and cultured cream (sweet cream to which certain beneficial bacteria which produce lactic acid are added).

The revision also would establish two major categories: "dry buttermilk," and "dry buttermilk product," which would be distinguished by their protein content, Haley said. "Dry buttermilk" would have to meet a minimum standard of 30 percent protein, and "dry buttermilk product" would have less than 30 percent protein.

To reflect the proposed changes, USDA also proposes renaming the standards "U.S Standards for Grades of Dry Buttermilk and Dry Buttermilk Product." The current name is "U.S. Standards for Grades of Dry Sweetcream Buttermilk."

"Users of dried buttermilk, chiefly bakeries, want a product appropriate to their needs," Haley said. "With a rising demand for high-protein dried buttermilk for human consumption, it would appear timely that dried buttermilk grading standards be extended to additional sources of buttermilk."

USDA developed the proposals on the initiative of the American Dairy Products Institute.

USDA has quality grade standards for hundreds of agricultural commodities, assuring buyers and sellers using them that they get what



they pay for. Use of USDA graders applying the standards is voluntary, that is, industry-requested, and is paid for by the user.

Details of the proposed changes to the dried buttermilk standards will appear as a proposed rule in the Feb. 7 Federal Register. Comments in duplicate, postmarked or courier-dated no later than April 8, should be sent to the director, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Copies and additional information are available from that office, tel. (202) 447-4392.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 447-6179

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## USDA SETTLES FOUR ANIMAL WELFARE ACT COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled four cases between Dec. 1, 1990, and Jan. 20, 1991, to enforce the humane care and treatment of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act.

James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the cases resulted from earlier charges. Details are:

—Aircraft Service International, Inc., of West Palm Beach, Fla., agreed to the issuance of a cease-and-desist order and to pay a \$1,000 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that it failed to comply with transportation standards of the Animal Welfare Act. USDA charged that the company engaged in business as an intermediate handler on Dec. 4, 1986, without being registered. Other alleged violations occurred when there was failure to place a shipment of 12 dogs arriving from Sioux Falls, S.D., in an adequately ventilated holding area or to provide them with food and water and promptly notify the consignee that the shipment had arrived.

—Orville Britt of Bowling Green, Ky., agreed to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that he violated federal licensing requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. In addition to imposing the monetary penalty, an administrative law judge ordered Britt to refrain, for at least five years, from doing any business or activity that requires a license under the act. The judge also issued a cease-and-desist

order and ruled that all but \$3,000 of the penalty would be suspended so long as Britt refrains from any future infractions of the law. USDA charged that on 42 occasions between Feb. 5, 1988, and Feb. 15, 1989, Britt sold at least 449 dogs and 18 cats to other licensed dealers without having the required license to sell animals wholesale.

—Adelphi University of Garden City, N.Y., agreed to the issuance of a cease-and-desist order and to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that during the period from Dec. 2, 1987, until Feb. 13, 1989, it operated as a research facility without being registered. Also, the university allegedly held its rabbits in housing that was poorly ventilated and not substantially impervious to moisture, the primary enclosures were not clean and sanitary, and there was no established program to remove and dispose of animal waste.

—Wayne Streiff of Pine Island, Minn., agreed to the issuance of a cease-and-desist order and to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that he violated federal licensing requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. Also, Streiff was disqualified by an administrative law judge from applying for an animal dealer's license for two years. USDA alleged that on at least eight occasions between Aug. 17, 1986, and Aug. 9, 1988, Streiff sold 41 dogs at the wholesale level without being licensed as a dealer.

Since 1966, the Animal Welfare Act has required that the care and treatment of certain animals be provided according to standards established by APHIS. Animals protected by the law must be provided adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, veterinary care and protection against extremes of weather and temperature. The law covers animals that are sold as pets at the wholesale level, used for biomedical research or used for exhibition purposes.

USDA enforces the act primarily by conducting inspections and through administrative prosecutions when warranted. Many of these cases are resolved through the consent decision provisions of the regulations. Under these provisions, USDA and the respondent named in the complaint agree to a stipulated order and penalties. If the case is not settled, there is a hearing before an administrative law judge, who issues a decision. Any party may appeal this decision to the USDA judicial officer. The respondent may appeal an adverse decision by the judicial officer to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Failure to respond to the charges in the complaint



results in the issuance of a default order by the administrative law judge who assesses penalties.

Animal dealers, breeders, brokers, transportation companies, exhibitors and research facilities, must be licensed or registered. USDA employees make periodic, unannounced inspections to insure compliance. Action is taken against violators if efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful.

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